

REMARKS

This is a supplemental response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed September 21, 2004 (Paper No. 20040831). Upon entry of this response, claims 53-109 are pending in the application. In this response, claims 104-109 have been added. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments being filed herewith be entered and request that there be reconsideration of all pending claims.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to express their sincere appreciation for the time that the Examiner spent with Applicants' representatives Jeffrey Kuester and Karen Hazzah during a telephone discussion on January 25, 2005. Applicants briefly described the amendments made in the outstanding response mailed January 12, 2005. During that conversation, the Examiner indicated that he considered some of the language in independent claim 53 to be non-functional, and therefore this language would not be considered in determining patentability.

Specifically, the Examiner stated that in the step "tracking data related to a plurality of non-monetary innovation awards," he considered "non-monetary" to be non-functional. He suggested amending to include language describing what benefit tracking non-monetary awards provided, or why it was important to track non-monetary awards. He also indicated that this language would be considered even if added to a dependent claim.

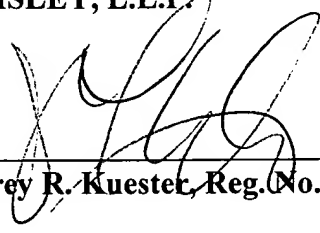
Applicants make the amendments contained herein in response to the Examiner's suggestion. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner carefully consider these amendments.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and presently pending claims 53-109 be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

**THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
& RISLEY, L.L.P.**

By: 
Jeffrey R. Kuester, Reg. No. 34,367

100 Galleria Parkway, NW
Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5948
Tel: (770) 933-9500
Fax: (770) 951-0933